

Chapter 157: Will the Police Dog Fulfill His Duty!?



It doesn't matter how you change the bidding order!



So then he was promoted to the top... as a tactic against me? But...

It was toward the bottom of the order in the previous games.









Yeah,
what they
call a face
slap or a
cudgel.

It was a
slap with a
cudgel break
just now,
wasn't it?



But with
two drinks,
he couldn't
let it go, so he
didn't have
a choice...



So we're
only going
after 30%
of the
Pitchers?

In the
beginning.



Then, they're not
supposed to
follow big hitters
and the ones
that fall either...
So there's
nothing to hit?

So they're
supposed to
let the
small ones
go.



Even though
30% of Ochiai's
pitchers are
oldies, in order to
fight against him,
we're supposed to
let them go...?

Actually,
I also
have
doubts
about
that...



Well, just watch.
Because
before long will be
more and
more pitches
to hit.



Then,
shouldn't you
just have said
"Don't let any
sliders for
now"?



There's a
warning behind
looking over
each slider and
after another
while keeping in
mind that there
are three
types of them.



According
to my
calcula-
tion.



There
aren't any
errors
in your
calcula-
tion?

Did you
double
check it?



They were all
sliders, so I
let them all go.

Three
pitches,
three
strikes.



**STRIKE
OUT!**



*The true
Number 1
is me!!*

*You're
looking
down on
me...*



Adachi





99 MFL clip clip







Four wins
until the
Koshien!



Now that
we got here,
everyone
has high
expectations
of us!



Because
if we win
today, we'll
be in the
best 8.



Speaking of which,
so what was
Katsuya-san's
strategy against
Goudaki?

Ahh,
that. You
see...



Bob Oetaki,
that's the ace
of a school seeded
first for you.
It doesn't look like
his slider can be
hit that easily.







HASU-
NUMA,
NICE
DOUBLE
PLAY!!

NICE ON
SECOND
GO!!



A double
play is
cool.

I was wondering how
it'd turn out, with a
sudden showdown
against their first
batters, but it went
well --- It's over at
three batters.



BATTING
FOURTH,
RIGHT
FIELDER,
OOMYA-
KUN.



TOP OF THE
2ND, SATTAMA
ACADEMY
ON THE
OFFENSE...



The
problem
starts
here.



The data says he
doesn't swing at the
first pitch in his first
at bat. In the last
game he was hitless,
and I'm sure here
as well...

The
cleanup
bat...









*Rather than
thinking
about a
beautiful hit
and ending up
hitless, I
should just
hit in any way
possible!*

*That's
right. It's
too early
for me to
chase
after an
ideal!*





Team: [Team](#)
Hosts: [Hosts](#)
Project: [Project](#)
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TEAM 1 2 3

0

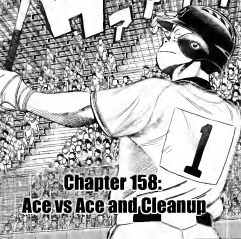
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BOTTOM
OF THE 2ND.
EIKAN HIGH
SCHOOL ON
THE OFFENSE...

BATTING
FOURTH,
PITCHER,
OOTAKI-KUNITI

W 7 7 7 7 7



Chapter 158: Ace vs Ace and Cleanup



*I
changeup.*

*In order to skirt
by his intent to
hit, the first
pitch will be...*

*That's
the ploy of
them batting and
pitching for you...
he's brimming with
confidence even
at the plate*



*So you want
a hard on
right...?*

Yes?



*I understand.
In that case,
to the
outside...*





Is Hasekawa-san trying to be unreasonable again?



Get a fastball as well?



Don't tell me, you want to throw that?



You should escape like the catcher's signs tell you to...

If you shake your head so many times, it's clear as day.



Good grief, there's someone who actually hates to lose.







Idaka-san
might be in
a good mood,
but...
It's become
difficult for
us now.

Showing
your slider to
Gobaku-san, who
uses them as
a weapon...



That
Yasuo, he's
dragging
his feet
somehow.



The theory says to
first show a really
fast or a really slow
pitch to impress it
upon the batter, but
they ended up showing
a moderate slider
from the start.



He's troubled.
About what
kind of a
setup to go
with now.



Tetsu's
right?

Well, it's true,
but... Shaka
and Tetsu
function well
together.



If that's the
case, why did
he decide to
listen to
Shaka-san's
suggestion?

Is he hoping
to be
making for a
replacement
part?



What
are you
dreading
for?



What
are you
dreading...?

A
changeup
again?











Would we
be able to
hit?



Osaka's
old MHA
center
series.



Well, if
that's all he
has, I'll just
do it next
time!



If that
got counted
as a half
swing,
I should've
just
swung---



Haan---





WATCH
CLOSELY
AND SWING
AS HARD AS
YOU CAN,
KARAMATSU
—!!



I'm from
Saitama Daily
Report. Are you
Kisaka-kun's
guardian by
any chance?



Kisaka's become a good
pitcher as well. This is
only the third game, but
you can already feel how
he's getting more stable.
That's a real ace's
behavior.



He's
surpassed
Osage-san,
who was only
in the top 32
in the
profession
long ago...

This is the time
for him to
acknowledge his
right to wear
Saitaka's ace
number that was
once mine.









Say, Kikukougawa, are my sliders different from the usual today?



Rice picking, rice picking.



What about my form?



No, they're the same. Good trajectory.



I didn't see anything strange...





Next time, let's
go mainly with
Paseballs and
liddle sliders
(cutballs).



Alright....
Let's
change our
setup.



Let's just
go with
that!



Uh,
sure....



My Paseballs
are good today,
and the
cubbers haven't
been hit either.



The Fish is
approaching the
bait. Without
knowing it's
a trap!

You're
going to
reel them in
soon—
Let's go—



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Chapter 159: A ♥ Mark for Kabao-kun!





ラストニング 17



BATTING
THIRD,
PITCHER,
HIDAKA-
KUN.



Why?
Don't he say
we're not
losing them?

A big
slide
off of a
dodger!









Not kidding.
I'm talking
about
Ootaki.



What is
there?



You mean, the
fact that Ootaki
started giving
the signs
himself?



Even though
he missed
and fell
down?



He's
cornered.
...The love
one will
be...



Yeah. He's
happily
getting
lured by
us.

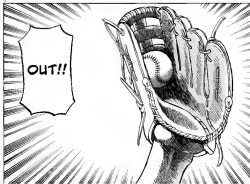




















Of course
Kakao-kun isn't a
popular type by
any stretch of
the imagination.



That's
the way
Kakao-kun is
now.



Uh, well,
it's just a
metaphor.



Relationship is
deep indeed if
you can use
relationships
between men
and women as
a metaphor.



So you mean,
he's the guy who
misunderstands
the situation,
gets heated up,
and fails in
the end?



I see.



Oh, excellent.
You really
got it.

He he he





It's not
Kondouwa's
fault.



Excuse me,
Kondouwa-
san. Could you
give the sign to
the outfielders
it be "Foulout"?
Our tempo is
a little...



Ootaki gives the signs
himself, so I'm late
transmitting the pitch
type to the Fielders.
Because Ootaki
starts to pitch
immediately...



Yeah, we have to
make sure we
don't break
Ootaki's rhythm.

Then we
have no
choice but
to try to
match it
ourselves.







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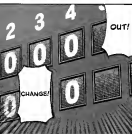


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Chapter 160: Hatogaya Keisuke's Conspiracy







AM-RIGHT!
WE'LL PUT
THREE OF
THEM OUT
AND GO BACK
TO OFFENSE
AT ONCE!!



Get it done
quickly to
put some life
into the
game!



678 Scan



Kobao-kun
is brimming
with self-
confidence.



Is it really
true that he's
gradually being
lured by our
bait?





Tetsuo—
You've noticed it, haven't you?



Other than the fact
that Ootaki
started giving
the sign
himself, I don't
see anything
especially...



You're
really the
worrying
type, aren't
you?

Even though
you're a hero,
you have doubts
and worry.



As
expected of
Tetsuo-san.
You really
get it.



The number of
big ones and the
ones that Pail
has
shrunk starting in
the last inning.

*Boldly hit
waste
Fastballs!*





ORYA,
LET'S
GO!!



There's
no doubt that
the coach's
strategy has
started to
bear fruit.



A
cutter
...



A waste!
Fastball...



Cobaki-san's
weapons are the big
slider and the little
slider... In other
words, the fastball.
And then also the
slider falling
vertically.





If you let a big slider or the falling one go, there's a good chance they'll turn into balls.



If you maintain the posture as if you see through them, they'll become difficult for the batter to use.

Whenas Pitches can be no differently...



Inevitably, they turn to relying on Pitches and cutoffs for their setup!



Cutoffs.





Isn't it the same as Waka-san is?

Even though I told them to let the small ones go so they'd be able to see the extent of the break. Getting in the way to hit, good.

Ah ah.



But it'll
really get
bad at
this rate.



Even though
they're not picking
as many big and
falling ones, I don't
see the flow
changing at all...

Shut up
already!



If we drag our
feet, it'll be
Hidaka-san
who'll get
captured by
them.



Yes...
It's the
real deal
from now
on!



You're the one
I expect to
understand
it, Kashi.

*I understand it.
Just how
dangerous it is to
play a game with
just the Baseball
and the little
slider...*



*That will turn
80% chance of
victory into
100%.*

*Once you get
a strike with
a slider, make
sure you take
a pause
afterward.*



*It was during
the showdown
between
Hokuto-san and
Takeshi, who had
just joined the
team...*



Taking a pause is needed in order to get their feet back. During the Virgin Mary practice match we went overboard with it, and they targeted that, but if we didn't, the results would've been even worse.

Power distribution

Fastball
Index Finger 60%
Middle Finger 40%

Slider
Index Finger 20%
Middle Finger 80%

The slider and the Fastball differ in the distribution of power between fingers.



A Fastball thrown while the feet of a slider hasn't subdivided is in danger of turning into one without power.



And with those
slams... Cubbies
thrown in between,
the Pigeons get
extremely abused.
The coach's aim is to
corner Ootaki-san by
making him throw only
Fastballs and little
sliders.



It's not like
Ootaki's Fast-
balls are so
Fast that no
one can touch
them. That's
why he's been
polishing his
sliders.

The time
seems to be
right
already. For
the little
sliders do
well...

If the
all-important
slider's
trajectory
becomes bad,
and if the
fastballs grow
weak as well...



GO
FOR IT,
YASHIO
—!!





Is this
really
going
well?



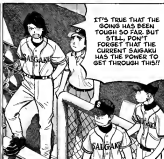
WE'RE
CHANG-
ING,
LET'S
BING
IT!!



You can break
Oosaki for
sure. But it's
probably
unreasonable
to expect a
huge number
of runs.



IT'S TRUE THAT THE
GOING HAS BEEN
TOUGH SO FAR. BUT
STILL, DON'T
FORGET THAT THE
CURRENT SAGAKU
HAS THE POWER TO
GET THROUGH THIS!!











Team: [Team](#)
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Chapter 161: The Road to 150 kmph



You really
aren't
too
bright.



There's no way
I can go 5 cm.
Further out!!
The hand just
slips!!

I told you
to let go of
the ball 5 cm
forward.

I didn't
tell you
to stretch
your arm out,
did I?

How am I
supposed to
do that
without
stretching
my arm?

OH OH,
BUT I PASS
THE MAKEUP
TESTS EVERY
TIME!! HOW'S
THAT RELATED
TO BASEBALL
ANYWAY!?!?

Waaaa
-dun.

You
silly
bastard
-!

Y-Yes.

Yesho,
the ball.

If you hold
the ball here,
and also keep
the grip on
longer...

With this, what
percentage of
your power
goes into
making it go up?

Look here,
right now
you let go of
the ball like
this.







But if you want to throw Partner pitches, you need to start by stepping on the ground with your heel first!



ド
ン



Basically, one isn't wrong in itself.



Then your arms will be able to go Partner out naturally, and you can give an extra push with your fingertips. So you'll be able to give power to the ball.



The width of your step will shrink by half of your feet, but your knee will have more freedom, and you can put more of your weight on it.







*And the slippery
shoes were also
designed to
teach me to
properly put
my weight on
the left foot.*



Thanks to
shoes, it's
not 5 cm
now!



*I feel like
I could
release
20 cm
further
out.*





Watch Me,
Poppo, at
this rate
I can get to
150 km
today!











Let's do it!
A no hit, no
run game!



I'm
sorry,
Ridou...



I don't mind
errors. I gave up
two bases on
balls as well. It's
fine as long as
it's not a hit.

Oh?
You
mean
...



Ridou-san,
right now
shouldn't the
team's victory
take
precedence
over individual
record...?



Don't
it

You were
going for
it?



But it's okay,
isn't it? To go
for it.













The 7th
inning
starts
with me!...
I'll hit no
matter
what!!

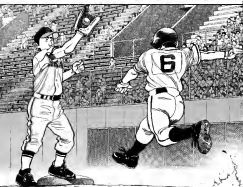
Have your
fun while
you still
can!!



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Character: [Character](#)
Genre: [Genre](#)
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Team: [Team](#)
Members: [Members](#)





Chapter 162:
Offense and Defense!
Bottom of the 7th!

TEAM	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
Saitama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
EWING	0	0	0	0	0	0				





The one to hit
and make it
happen
will be me!



I'll go all out
swinging
until I'm
struck.

A single
homer to
definitely
change the
game.



Nataka
won't crumble
if something
like that gets
interrupted.

I told Nataka
to aim for a no
hit, no run game,
but in reality
I don't care.



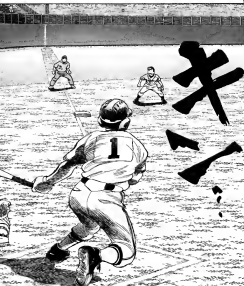
We had to be
thinking that
as the pivotal
batter, if he gets
struck out here,
another chance
won't come...

It's just that
we have to be
careful with
Nataka in that
at bat.



But if we
don't want to
get caught in
Eikan's scoring
pattern, I don't
want to give them
second base!

I don't mind
a one base
hit.





Shib,
I opened
up too
quickly...

SHIBU

HE GOT
US -----
!!





He's
okay.

Retegaga-
san, we
should call
a timeout
and get
Nataka to...



NICE
RUN!!
NO
OUTS,
RUNNER
ON
SECOND
!!

NICE
BAT-
TING,
OOTAKI
—!!



I wonder
if Nida-
ka's okay
...

The moment
our no hit,
no run is
interrupted,
we're in a big
pinch!!







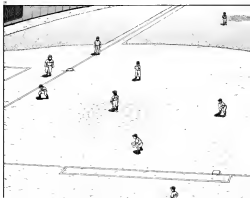




Is that
okay?
Something
like that...

INFIELD,
CLOSER.

MOVE IN
CLOSER
—!!







Bring
it on!



*So, how long can you
endure this? This late
in the game, I'm sure
you don't want to
accomodate runners...*



It's 2-0. If we're
doing it, now's the
time. Coach! Akiaka
will throw a strike
for sure!



Isn't that
their sign
to square-
up?

ARE
IT
COMES

Ah, did you
see it just
now? Clap,
clap!







*You were
too scared
of our
squeeze and
self-
destruction,
Coach
Kabogaya...*



**BALL!
3-0!!**





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Man-
daniel,
you're too
slow!

Here it
comes...
It'll be a
squeeze
play this
time for
sure...



One out,
runner on
third, the
count is 0-3,
we can't pitch
outside
anymore...



Chapter 163: Which Is It!?



THE
ENEMY
IS TOO
SCARED
—!!

GOOR
KEEP
EARNING
BASES—
!!

PUSH,
PUSH—!!



BALL!
FOUR
BALLS!



WALKING
A BATTER
BECAUSE
YOU'RE
SCARED OF
A SQUEEZE
ISN'T
WHAT A
MAN DOES,
HATOGAKYA
—!!



GEEZ—
WHY
HON'T
HE LET
THEM
FIGHT!??



I can't believe someone like Higogaya-san would be scared...



With a runner on first, an infield grounder would get two outs.



Ah, that's a possibility!



With 3-0, if they want for an easy strike, then we would have no problem deciding this on the next pitch, but...





Probably
that's what
they were
thinking
when they
walked
us—



If we get a runner on
first, our possibilities
would increase, so we
would switch over to
hitting. And then
a double play...



But I've
experienced
this situation
many times
up till now.



Not
surpris-
ing.

He's
giving
a sign
again.



I won't
fall for your
enticement.



It's not, but don't. "Animal/Pinkie" seems to startle large with "Baseball", as "Baseball/Animal" interpretation is also possible.





The seventh
batter
Kakutsumi
has also been
successful
twice up till
now now.



Osabe-san,
what does
she just
say?



Forget about
the district,
we're okay.
Even if they
say, it won't
be on the
first pitch.



SEE, I
KNEW IT,
HERE AS
WELL..



IF they
were
setting
something
up....









Even though the situation's changed,
their infield is still
drawn in. They're
still on guard
against a squeeze.
This is...



He knows that,
so he's convinced
himself that we
would never switch
over to hitting?

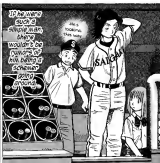


Up till now,
we've been
scoring our
runs with
squeeze
plays.



No, he's
scared?







All they're capable of is a squeeze play.



It's the seventh batter of a team with a .230 batting average. He'll be lucky just to grab the ball.



Are we okay with this defense formation?



What is an Amazing Judo, what's the sign?



Chase...







Well, not
like you
have a
choice.

ARE YOU
PLANNING
TO
HATE
THEM
AGAIN?

IT'S
3-0!!



BALL!!
3-0!!

S
B
O
H
E
E



Codach, hurry
up and give the
sign! Is it be
bad for us if
the bases get
loaded?



WE
DON'T
HAVE A
CHOICE,
REALLY
...?



Just how
long are
they going
to pitch
outside?



*Th- That's
right!!
If we do it,
now's the
time!!*



*Even if we switch
over to hitting to
avoid that, I can't
expect the eighth
batter Nishihara
would be able to hit
off Hidaka. And with
two outs, the ninth
batter Kakeo won't
have a chance...*



*If the bases
get loaded,
there's a good
chance of a
Force out at
the home
plate...*



There's no
doubt they'll
throw a
somebody
than walk
home

They should
also want to
avoid
accounting
numbers and
getting the
books
checked



We're going
to bet on
them
throwing
that strike!





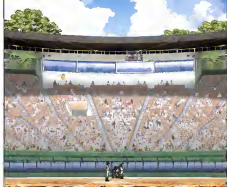




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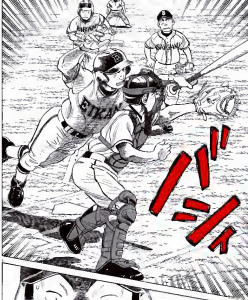


Chapter 164: The Squeeze









AH
!!



*Shit! I can't
let them get
me! If I go back
to third, there's
still a chance!*







Oh! The pass is too high!



The change was too soft! An outfielder just can't get used to a rundown play!



A pickoff! He's throwing already!



EH?



Now... I can get back!







OUT !!





In that span of time, the opponent would definitely do a squeeze play... something like that.

Even if the bases get loaded, I told them to pitch outside until three balls. For 11 in a row, all outside.

Since Otsuki got to third, we'd be okay to walk two batters.



There's no reason for them to change the tactic they have absolute confidence in just this one time.

If Otsuki gets on base with a long hit, they advance him with a bunt and score with a squeeze. That's Saigaku's scoring pattern engraved in gold.

Good job, nice squad.

Thanks.



How could you be sure of that?



Because it's according to the data.



The squeeze isn't an absolute strategy. It should be used as a tactical tool to switch to hitting once the fielders move up as a precaution.



But those guys absolutized it. Once there is a condition for a squeeze play, they would certainly make it. That is their creed!!...

That's why we easily let Ootaki advance all the way to third...





There are plenty
of other methods
to score runs,
but since they
were confident
they had a
special tactic, a
good plan
they just
waited.

Once he
got there,
there was
nothing but
a squeeze
play in their
heads.



IT'S NOT
OVER YET,
TWO
OUTS,
RUNNER
ON THIRD!!



That's right.
It's not over
yet. IF I can
do...





Even though there were other methods to score, the fact that the team's condition prevented **base** is also a reality.



If Elkan had at least another reliable batter...





That's why
they're "all
for one"....



But, since
they don't,
they can only
rely on
Ootaki.



That's the
strength of a
one man team,
but also its
weakness.



**DON'T
GET
SCARED,
NAKATSU-
GAWA!!
GO ALL
OUT—!!**



I have
to hit...
!!







*Too bad,
Kobou-kun.
Even though
you changed
the game with
one hit, your
whole team
waned.*



Shit



*You
can't
win.*

*You have
to use the
situation,
control it.
If you
can't do
that....*

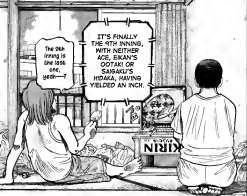


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Chapter 165: Who Will Hit!?



If Sengoku
doesn't go to
the kitchen, it'll
be seriously
bad!



Foodstuffs
aren't what
a drug.



I can't stand
living like a
Protagonist
anywhere, in this
broken down
apartment
building, in this
room without
even a fan ...



YOU'RE
THE LEAD,
SO DO
WHATEVER
YOU HAVE
TO, BUT
GET ON
BASE—!!

BATTING
THIRD,
PITCHER,
HIDAKA-KUN.















If they lose now, I won't forgive you!

He's your son, will he be okay?!



Even if you call it a hit, it was just a shabby one.



RENJI



He will hit.



IT'S IN!!
ONE STRIKE,
ONE BALL!

Takeshi



Takeshi will hit. Please watch!

Five then...







*It was
a ball just
now, but
if I were
there...*







SPE. YOUN



*I'll just
believe in
Ootaki.
Everyone
believes in
him.*



*We finally get
the chance with a lefty
batter at the plate.
What's the point of
giving them an out
that easily? What did
Kawaguchi hit
goF balls for,
day after day?*



*Although we
have one out,
we should
advance the
runner to a
scoring position
and get a
run—*



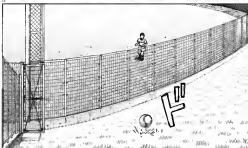
*This AP64
batter is
indeed a low
ball hitter...*















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Chapter 166: Kabao-kun's Last Resistance



























Yashio was
taken to the
hospital.
He won't be
back in this
game!



It was a serious
concussion, so
they'd better
have a good look.



It'll
be fine!



THAT'S
NOT
THE
POINT!!

His mother
was with
him.



Oh
no...



FIKAYA-KUN
REPLACES
CATCHER
YASHIO-KUN.

SAITAMA
ACADEMY
HIGH SCHOOL
ANNOUNCES
A PLAYER
SUBSTITUTION.

Yashio....

To think my
turn to play
would really
come...

SAITAMA

Shut up
already.

Can you really
lead? How many
years has it been
since you last
played? Your
senses haven't
dulled?





*Gotoku is
Full of desire
to hit... He'll
come swinging
at the first
pitch for
sure...*



*He's accepting
challenges and throw
him a fastball...
Kazuo, Ichi, Ryoji
and Osaka-gawa.*



In baseball, it'll be a heavy burden for Fokage, who's not used to playing real matches.



If it's a long hit and runners get on second and third, it's a chance for another squeeze.



Catch...



But you won't score it, will you?



If we don't go ahead on, there's the changeup... No, with that lineup, we could also win Globakun!





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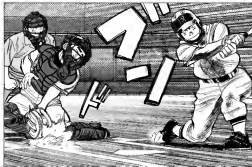




19%
THUMP
THUMP

















This is our
payback for
neglecting on Yoshio
all the time!
It's Rappo's
responsibility...



EH?



Ah,
what?







*Taking a timeout
after two sliders
in a row is like
saying he can't
catch sliders.*





We're
the ones
coming thru,
we can't mess
up our rhythm.



This is all
a waste of
time!



Got it
since that
Fukaya's
been shaken
up a little...

Uh,
well...



If you
can't catch,
become a
wall!



What's the
point of thinking
over and over
about what's
done!!?



Anyways,
back to
positions!



We should
end this
quickly
now—

Once we
take care of
Ootani, the
rest are
small fry.



I don't know
what they were
discussing, but
with the catcher,
there are
no sliders
anymore?



It might even be
outside, but if
my bat can reach
it, I'll go for it no
matter how
ambiguous it is!

I can fight off
a changeup.
I will only run
for fastballs!





*There's no point
in a single or a
babe on ball!
What I want is
a long hit.
I want to let it
go. I'll need to
back to the
stadium!*



*I'll admit
that. But
still, even
I...*

*Certainly,
Yashio has
practiced
more than
I did.*

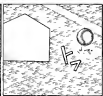








*A third
in
a row...
slider!?*





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Chapter 168:

Good-bye, Kabao-kun.





There's no need to worry anyone.



But we can't relax with Fakego's catbaking. Even now, it could've been Fina's base on an error....



From now on, take them out with Pastballs only.



STAY STRONG, NAO-CHAAAAN!!

JUST ONE LEFT—!!



Why was
the third
pitch a
slider as
well...!?

Why
was my
expectation
wrong?



The reason they
took a timeout
after two sliders
in a row, wasn't
it because the
catcher was
available?



STRIKE
TWO!!



PLEASE
HIT—!!

PLEASE!
KARAMA-
TSURUU!

Even if
I pitched
a slider,
it'd be
an easier
one...

Impossible...



What if it were
me? With a bad
catcher, like that,
would I throw a
close slider with
the same swing
and a fastball
too?



And yet,
why did
that guy
throw one
so hard...





The true
Roubert
was...

Because
he believed in
him? That
arrogant
Ridou trusted
his teammate?





*Even in
the last
at bat...*

*There's
no point in
a single or
a base on
balls! What I
want is a long
hit. I won't let
it end yet. I'll
reset it back
to the start!*



*I can't
believe in my
teammates
that far.*

*I'm the ace and the cleanup.
I've always believed that
as long as I hold them off
and hit, the team would win.
The rest should just
concentrate on setting
the stage for me... But...
If I trusted in the ones
following me and hoped to
connect with them... We'd
have one out and runners
on the corners... A chance
for a squeeze play...*



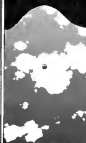


*In that case,
that inexperienced
catcher wouldn't
wangle that random
play like in the 7th
inning, and we'd still
have our chance...*





*It's me!
It's my
Fault that
we lost!*



Shue 1994/2000/2001









SFD: Black Book



SFD: Chapter





Because
Ootaki is a
pitcher.



But, see...
Even though you
knew the slider
was dangerous
with Fukaya,
why did you keep it
up for the third
time?

It's the opposite.
I thought we could
do a showdown
with a slider on
the third pitch
precisely because
of the passed ball.



What do
you mean?



Exactly.



It'd probably
be like Fukaya is
useless.



I was predicting
what Ootaki
would be thinking
if he were a batter
with Fukaya.



That's why
I actually
continued with
the slider.

With his pitcher
psychology, Coach
would think that
a slider would be
impossible as
a deciding pitch
with this
catcher.



Not based
You're not
rooting as a
catcher yet.



Ohh,
indeed!
Just as
you
predic-
ed!



Um—
I guess
I wouldn't
continue
with it
then...



Got still, what
would you do if
Fukage caught
another
pinned ball?



Um?





Hidaka-san...?



YASHIRO!!



That?

Gh? Annnh...



Yashiro, your head.



Just for today?

It's nothing on ice pack in place. They said I should keep it cold just for today...





ラストイニング¹⁷

ビッグ コミックス

ISBN978-4-09-181777-8

2008年4月2日初版第1刷発行

(検印廃止)

著 者

中 原 裕
神 尾 龍

© Yû Nakahara
© Ryû Kamie 2008

発行者

片 寄 聡

印刷所

凸版印刷株式会社

Printed in Japan

「週刊ビッグコミックスピリッツ」107年雑誌号～第44号、第46号～第50号掲載作品

連載担当／編 靖剛

単行本編集責任／赤名英之

単行本編集／編 靖剛、大木淳平(銀杏社)

監修／加藤 匡

発行所

(〒100-0001)東京都千代田区一ツ橋二の三の一

TEL 編集部(03)5561-5505
販売部(03)5561-3556

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なぜ!?

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